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SEEK LAW ON "LAND HOGS"

High Cost Charged in Plant Loss

Exorbitant cost of industrial land here was cited as the reason for the loss by this city of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Company factory, now slated for construction on a piece of property just outside the Torrance city limits.

The loss of this giant plant, with a large potential tax revenue for the city, has caused local Chamber of Commerce officials to lament the fact that almost all choice manufacturing property is tied up in the hands of several large firms.

Growth Hampered
These firms, it was noted, are not developing the land, but are simply holding on to it, thereby hampering seriously the industrial growth of Torrance.

Firms attempting to buy the land to erect factories, bringing a wealth of industry to this city, are quoted sky-high prices on the property, one Chamber member said.

In addition, the land holders are asking for certain tie-in clauses for various services in the sale of the land.

These factors have discouraged a number of large, national manufacturing firms from building here, it was added.

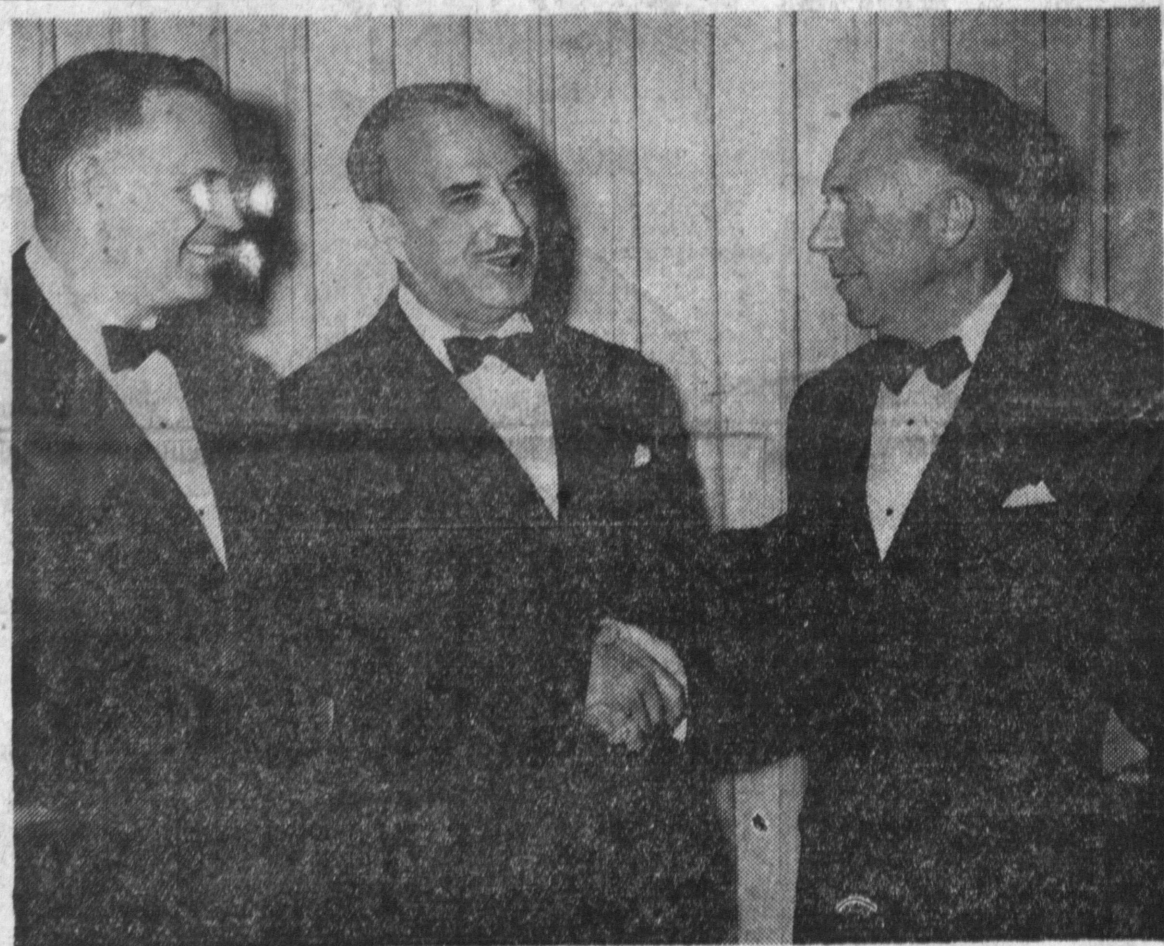
Solution Offered
A possible solution to the problem was suggested by a prominent merchant here. He declared that if the city rezoned certain parcels being held by "land hogs" it would no longer be profitable for them to hold on to the property and would release it for development. Representatives of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have spent several months now trying to locate a piece of available land for the Minneapolis-Honeywell factory. The giant Eastern manufacturing firm had indicated a desire to locate their plant here.

Other Site Found
However, all efforts to find a suitable piece of property at a fair price met with no success, and the firm has reportedly acquired a ten-acre site on the north east corner of 174th St. and Western Ave., directly across from our boundary.

The advice of the City Manager and the City Council will be sought in an effort to make Torrance more attractive, and not less attractive, to prospective builders, by making building sites more easily obtainable.

Blood Mobile

Red Cross bloodmobile will make its regular quarterly visit to Torrance Red Cross Chapter. The bloodmobile will be stationed at Civic Auditorium. Appointments for donations may be secured by calling Torrance 3447 or 3448.



HOSPITAL CHIEF NAMED—New Chief of Staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital, Dr. Frederic Ewens (center) accepts the congratulations of out-going Chief, Dr. Earl Madden at installation ceremonies held Saturday night at the Palos Verdes Country Club. Dr. Howard S. Wood, left, served as installing officer at the joint function in which officers of the L. A. County Medical Association were also seated.

Dr. G. Eastham Seated as Medical Group President

In a dual installation ceremony last Saturday night at the Palos Verdes Country Club, new officers of two local medical groups were seated.

Dr. Gerald M. Eastham, prominent local eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, took office as president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, southwest branch. He succeeds Dr. Kurt Shery.

Seated with him were Drs. John Wilson Jr., vice president, and Richard Schaeffer, secretary-treasurer. At the same time, Dr. Frederic Ewens was installed as successor to Dr. Earl Madden as chief of staff of Torrance Memorial Hospital. Drs. John Chapman and

Parents of War Vet Get Medal

The Silver Star will be awarded posthumously to the parents of a former Torrance youth who was killed in action in Korea on June 21, 1952, in a ceremony at Fort McArthur on Saturday.

The lad, Sidney Hatton Jr., was born and raised here and graduated from Torrance High School. He was well known locally as a race car enthusiast.

His father, Sidney Hatton Sr., now of Whittier, will accept the medal for his son.

School Carnival Slated by P-TA

Final plans for a school carnival to be held Tuesday, March 17, were made by the executive board of the 186th St. PTA when it met last week at the home of the president, Mrs. Claud Hill.

Arrangements are being made now to obtain prizes and food for the affair, it was disclosed.

4-Year-Old Watched for Polio Signs

Four-year-old Catherine Gandy of the Seaside district, was rushed to Los Angeles General Hospital Monday after she complained of feeling ill and showed signs of polio.

Her mother, Mrs. Louis Gandy of 5404 Reese Road, reported yesterday that doctors at the hospital have not confirmed the illness as polio but are keeping the child under observation.

The family expects to bring the child home within a week if she shows continued improvement. They have one other child, a daughter, Mary, who is six years old.

Slated Monday TEAC Meeting

A report on the recent raise in pay granted to Torrance teachers is on the agenda for the next regular monthly meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

The committee meets Monday, Feb. 9, at noon in the YWCA clubhouse, 2320 Carson Street.

The public is invited to attend the luncheon meeting. Reservations may be made by calling Torrance 2111, according to Dr. Howard A. Wood, moderator.

CENSUS PENDING

Count Would Increase Tax Revenue Here

City Manager George Stevens disclosed today that Torrance received more than \$25,000 in highway gas tax funds for the final quarter of 1952.

The allocation of gas funds is based on population. Funds received here climbed sharply after the special census taken here early last year.

SELOVER GETS GOP POSITION

Frank S. Selover, Torrance, was elected vice president of the Los Angeles County Republican Assembly at the annual meeting of the group in El Rancho Golf Clubhouse last Wednesday night.

Re-organizer of the 68th District Republican Assembly branch of the county organization, Selover serves as its executive vice president, Leonard DiMiceli, San Pedro attorney is president of the 68th Assembly.

President Re-elected
Harold C. Ramser was re-elected president of the Los Angeles County Republican Assembly, the largest volunteer Republican organization in Southwestern United States.

Besides these offices, Selover is chairman of the Republican County Central Committee, for the 68th Assembly District, and secretary of the 17th Congressional District Central Committee for the Republican party. He is executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council.

Harborite Named
Another Harbor Area Republican (Continued on Page 3)

\$200,000 Restraint of Trade Action Filed

Suit to recover \$200,000 in double damages from the Herald Publishing Co. and a long list of co-defendants for alleged restraint of trade was filed in Compton Superior Court Friday by the Star Publishing Co.

The complaint, filed on behalf of the Star Publishing Co. by Atty. Samuel V. Cornell, alleges that the Herald Publishing Co. entered into oral and written contracts with merchants, named as co-defendants, to prevent the merchants from purchasing advertising space in the opposition newspaper.

It asks for an injunction to prevent continuance of the alleged practices.

It charged that this practice has been in existence since 1949.

Tremendous Growth

Because of the unprecedented growth here since last year's census, the money for another special census in the near future is gaining much support.

Another count of the population of this city would result in even more funds from gas taxes and other state and county-collected taxes.

Aviation Tax

Stevens also announced that an additional \$287 was received from the funds of the aviation gas tax derived from the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Stevens expressed the opinion recently that the city would soon have a population of 40,000. At that time, a special census should be taken, he said.

Local Assemblyman
Vincent Thomas has promised to press for a court for this city before the state legislature as soon as an official population count of 40,000 has been established.

School Official To Address Meet

Walter Rehwoidt, director of instruction for Torrance Schools, will be guest speaker at the monthly Father's Night meeting of the Torrance Co-operative Nursery School on Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

Renwoidt will speak on the "Father's Role in the Education of His Child." A film will be presented also, nursery school officials announced.

Giant Shopping Center Planned

Plans for a million dollar shopping center for South Torrance were brought before the Planning Commission last night, as the builders, the January Company of Long Beach, sought the rezoning of the site of the proposed business section.

Columbia Contract Confirmed

Confirmation of a report printed exclusively in the Torrance Press that the Columbia Steel plant here has received a giant government military contract was made this week by Alden G. Roach, president of The Columbia-Geneva Steel Division of United States Steel Corporation.

Roach also confirmed reports that the nail mill at the local plant was being torn out, and that production in the hand sheet mills was being curtailed.

Large Tonnage
Roach disclosed that the Torrance division "had received a directive from Government authorities to supply a large tonnage of special quality steel required in the manufacture of ammunition." The steel produced here will be shipped to a mid-western factory for fabrication into special shell casings, a Columbia representative added.

250 Employees
Approximately 250 employees here are affected by the curtailment of production in the two departments at the Torrance plant. Roach stated that every effort will be made to absorb as many as possible of that number into other departments of the plant or at other plants of the division.

The reduction of operations here will be effected by the end of February, and production on the new steel billets will commence immediately, it was reported.

Old Equipment
The nail jobbing mill was erected here in 1911 and the hand sheet mills were purchased from an old producer in Northern California in 1927. The facilities have been maintained in operation far beyond their useful life in order to help provide steel products during World War II and more recently during the national defense effort following the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June, 1950, Roach added.

Shutterbugs Attention

Fifty dollars in cash is the first prize being offered in the First Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photography Contest, which begins today, Feb. 5, and closes Monday, March 16.

Second prize in the all-amateur competition will be a home photo developing outfit awarded by A-1 Photo Supplies, 1312 Sartori Avenue. Third prize, an Eastman Duaflex camera and six rolls of film, will be given by McCown Drug Stores, 1327 El Prado Ave.

The contest, which will last six weeks, will be on an elimination basis. The picture adjudged best of entries made during each of the six weeks will be finalists.

From the six finalists, first, second and third place winners will be chosen.

Any amateur photographer living within the circulation area of this newspaper may enter as many as six separate pictures in the contest, but no more than one per week.

Judges named to select the winners are Pat Roden, assistant editor of the Torrance Press, James Giacalone, manager of A-1 Photo Supplies, and Harry Petro, general manager of McCown Drug Stores.

All snapshots must be of a local nature and may be either news-worthy or artistic.

Judging will be based on originality and composition. Any amateur lens-enthusiast between the ages of eight and 80 is eligible. (Continued on Page 3)

First Amateur Photo Contest Opens